

Appln No. 10/791,716
Amdt. Dated March 10, 2005
Response to Office Action of January 26, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A binding mechanism for generating bound documents, the mechanism comprising:

a support structure that defines a floor onto which sheets to be bound are conveyed from an adhesive application station and a wall that extends from the floor to define a stop for the sheets that are fed conveyed onto the floor so that the sheets form a stack on the floor, each sheet having applied thereto a strip of adhesive proximate a leading edge of the sheet; and

at least one binding member that is pivotally mounted with respect to the wall and is operatively pivotal between ~~an operative~~ a first position in which the, or each, binding member bears against a leading portion of an uppermost sheet positioned on the floor of the stack so as to adhere the sheets together to form a bound document and ~~an inoperative~~ a second position in which the, or each, binding member is displaced from said uppermost sheet so that a subsequent sheet can be positioned in the support structure; and

means for driving the floor away from the, or each, binding member as each subsequent sheet is conveyed to the support structure so that a plurality of bound documents can be formed by repeated operation of the, or each, binding member and can be accommodated on the floor.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, which includes a shaft and a number of binding members that are rotatably mounted on the shaft, the wall defining a plurality of slots, each binding member passing through a respective slot.

5. (Original) A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 4, in which each binding member is in the form of a semicircular disc, such that each disc defines a diametric bearing surface which is displaceable between the operative and inoperative positions as the shaft is rotated.

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6. (Original) A binding mechanism as claimed in claim 1, which includes a vibrating mechanism that is engageable with the support structure to facilitate alignment of the sheets against the wall by vibrating the support structure.